

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-12

BAE

OCTOBER 30, 1943

LIBRARY

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

★ OCT 17 1943 ★

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOOD PROSPECTS

Total food production this year about 5 percent above last year's record, a 10 percent increase in livestock products offsetting smaller crop output. Crop yields *next year* of course unknown, but large acreage can be assumed; goal for 1944 set at 380 million acres, 16 million more than planted this year. Output of livestock products will again be large in 1944; heavy slaughter of hogs, cattle and chickens, probably representing some liquidation of herds and flocks. 1944 egg production may equal 1943; milk production probably will be somewhat less. Food demands next year will increase for armed forces and overseas needs. Civilian supply here will probably be less of red meats and dairy products. If crops turn out well, supply of cereals, vegetables, beans, fruit and poultry products should be adequate; but a widespread drought would be serious.

POTATOES

Biggest crop ever produced, estimated 469 million bushels, compared with 371 million last year and ten year average 363 million. Storage capacity over-taxed, especially in Maine. Crop of generally high quality.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock industries now probably at peak and entering a period of some liquidation. 1944 meat production forecast at about 24 billion pounds, same as in 1943. The 1944 spring pig crop may be 10 to 20 percent smaller than this year, but because of large pig crops this year hog slaughter in 1944 may exceed 1943 by 3 to 4 million head and pork production may also be larger despite lighter weight hogs. Hogs mostly have been selling at new ceiling prices since the first week in October. Receipts at 12 markets dropped a third when ceilings became effective. Cold storage stocks of pork and lard October 1 totaled 361 million pounds, a drop of 136 million during the month. Stocks of lard 192 million pounds October 1, down 68 million in a month. Large decline in storage stocks partly seasonal, partly the result of drop in marketings of hogs.

Cattle at beginning of next year expected to be record number, about 81 million head. Cattle slaughter expected to be heavy during 1944, induced by limited feed

and high costs. Cattle feeding expected to show decline in most of the important feeding States.

Number of *sheep* at beginning of next year expected to be smaller than year ago and 1944 lamb crop also likely to be smaller. Sheep slaughter during 1944 probably will continue large but less than this year; lamb feeding also likely to be reduced.

Feed situation operating as a brake on dairy, cattle and poultry industries; pinch likely to come next spring and early summer.

DAIRY

WFA extra payments will be made to dairymen to offset high feed costs, 25 to 50 cents per hundred pounds for whole milk and 3 to 6 cents per pound of butterfat where cream is sold; this program effective October 1 through December 31, 1943.

Milk production is falling off somewhat. In August it was 2 percent under same month last year. In September was around 9.3 billion pounds, about 2½ percent under same month in 1942. In a typical fluid milk State (New York) production in September was 4 percent under same month last year. Feed and labor situation both unfavorable; grain scarce in many areas and protein content lower than desired. Creamery *butter* production in August was 152 million pounds, about 9 percent under previous August. Output in September also lagged behind last year. Retail markets quite generally short of butter from Chicago eastward. Government now requiring about 438 million pounds of butter annually; armed forces about 316 million, lend-lease etc., about 122 million pounds.

EGGS

Egg production during September (3.3 billion eggs) was 9 percent above record for that month set last year. Number of laying hens on farms 332 million in September, 10 percent above year ago. More pullets in flocks this fall than last. Average farm price of eggs in mid-September 41.6 cents a dozen, compared with 34.7 cents year previous. Ceiling prices for eggs have about reached the peak for this fall. Egg receipts at primary markets smaller this September than last, despite larger production in all regions - suggests unusual marketing channels. Eggs reach the terminal markets but some seem to detour

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	SEPT. 15 1943	OCT. 15 1943	OCT. 15 1943
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.30	1.35	1.47
Corn, bu. dol.	1.09	1.07	1.07
Oats, bu. dol.	.69	.74	.66
Cotton, lb. ct.	20.20	20.28	20.58
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.34	1.28	1.19
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	14.10	14.00	12.10
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	12.10	11.80	9.00
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.50	13.20	11.20
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	12.50	12.20	9.76
Butterfat, lb. ct.	50.3	50.7	¹ 45.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.21	3.28	¹ 2.84
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	25.2	24.6	18.9
Eggs, doz. ct.	41.6	45.2	¹ 45.0

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

the primary points. Cold storage stocks of shell eggs last July 1 were nearly 9 million cases, largest figure since 1933; but the eggs have moved rapidly into consumption—withdrawals during July-September largest ever for the period.

TURKEYS

Average farm price of turkeys mid-September 29 cents a pound. Marketings of turkeys will reach peak in November and December. Total marketings this fall will be about as large as last fall but more are going to the military; civilian supply somewhat smaller. Present price ceilings tend to shorten supplies in eastern areas far from centers of production. Temporary embargo on sales of turkeys to civilians was lifted in late October.

FATS AND OILS

Domestic production of fats and oils not quite as large as appeared earlier. Output from domestic materials in 1943-44 now expected to be around 11.5 billion pounds, compared with 10.6 billion year previous and 9.5 billion two years previous. Flaxseed crop, judging from October 1 indications, will be less than expected, with minor reductions also in soybeans, peanuts, and cottonseed. Total oil output has had to be written down more than 100 million pounds under estimates of last month. World supplies of fats, outside the Japanese controlled area, are still substantially under the pre-war level despite increased production in North America.

COTTON

October 1 forecast for cotton crop of 11,478,000 bales. Last year's crop was 12,824,000 bales; 10 year average (1932-41) crop 12,474,000 bales. September farm price 20.2 cents per pound, highest since July 1928. Cotton consumption declining in U. S., one reason being textile labor shortage; domestic consumption in 1943-44 will fall below the 11.1 million bales consumed in 1942-43.

FARM LABOR

Farm labor situation slightly easier. Number of people working on farms October 1 was 11.9 million, a slight increase over year previous. Number family workers 8.8 million, compared with 8.6 million year ago. Number hired workers 3.1 million, compared with about 3.3 year ago. Farm wages highest of record; nation-wide average daily wage October 1, without board, \$3.51, compared with \$2.76 year ago. Farm labor

situation helped in certain areas by foreign help brought in; number of such agricultural workers Oct. 1 was: Mexicans 36,278, Jamaicans 8,650, Bahamians 4,253.

FRUIT

Fruit short crop this year. Commercial apple crop 90 million bushels, against 129 million last year and a 1934-41 average of 122 million. Peach crop this year 42 million bushels, 37 percent under last year and 24 percent below average. Pears 24 million bushels, 23 percent under last year. Grapes are the one big exception; crop estimated 2.8 million tons, 16 percent larger than last year. Citrus fruit prospect better than deciduous; large tonnage of citrus to be picked during next 12 months.

FEED

Feed supply somewhat like human food situation—plenty of roughage but could use more high protein concentrates. Supply of hay, silage, fodder ample. Corn crop exceeds 3 billion bushels, about as large as ever grown prior to 1942. This plus fairly large crops of barley, oats, and grain sorghums gives total feed grain new crop of about 115 million tons, about 9 million under last year but more than any other year since 1915 and 12 million above ten year average. This supply, however, must be stretched for a record number of livestock. Pastures went down rapidly this fall. General 1943 pastures inferior; average condition dairy pastures April to October 81.4 percent of normal, against 87.8 for 1942 season.

FARM INCOME

Total income from farm products sold during September, including Government payments, \$2,000 million compared with \$1,753 million in September 1942. Government payments this September \$57 million, compared with \$27 million a year ago.

For the 9 months January-September total income \$13,615 million, which includes \$553 million Government payments. Comparable figure last year \$10,652 million, which included \$511 million Government payments.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	OCT. 1943
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	192
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	166
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	116
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	162
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	177
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	272
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	2397
RATIOS	LONG-TIME OCT. AVERAGE	OCT. 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	12.3	13.1
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	26.2	22.2
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.34	1.27
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	23.4	20.9
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-SEPT. 1942	JAN.-SEPT. 1943
Milk, (Bill. lb.)	93.7	93.2
Eggs, (Bill.)	39.9	45.1
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	4,758	4,193
Lamb & Mutton, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	619	665
Lard, (Mil. lb.)	1,241	1,460

¹September figure.

²Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. August figure.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142—Branch 4407.